

1 A Trip to Burlington, Vermont

2 by W. Dean Pesnell

3 The Sheraton hotel, the conference center, and Burlington looked liked an excellent place to hold
4 the SDO 2016 workshop.



5 The welcome sign as you walk from the Sheraton to the conference center. This may reflect the
6 100 UVM students being housed at the hotel, along with a sleep lab.



7 The lecture ballroom is wider than deep. This is the left side as viewed from the back. There
8 are two projectors mounted in the ceiling but they illuminate the wall near the corners. There is
9 no screen behind a centered stage and speaker. I asked for a table (or podium) to hold computers
10 for speakers. A podium with a fixed mic is also available. The hall seats 330 in chairs, plenty of
11 room for a mix of tables and chairs. The black curtain is not part of the room, there is a reddish
12 curtain behind it. The A/V chap assured me that his network can handle the traffic we produce.



13 The promenade and entrance to the conference center has two places with room for registration
14 tables. The top right is at the entrance. It is next to a glass-enclosed cloak room. The promenade
15 (lower figures) is roomy enough for a table with room for people to move around. The entrances to
16 the ballrooms (lecture and poster) are at the far end of the building from the entry way. Lower left
17 is the walk from the entrance and the lower right is the view from the far end with the ballrooms
18 on the left. The actual layout is not what is shown in the diagram I was provided.



- 19 The Diamond room (left) can seat 160 in 10-person rounds. Picture shows only half of the room.
- 20 The Carleton (right) is designated as the conference office and can be locked for secure storage.



- 21 The Presidential Suite has two bedroom options (king and double double). The anteroom shown
- 22 here can be used for small meetings. It is a possibility for a small group or mini-workshop.



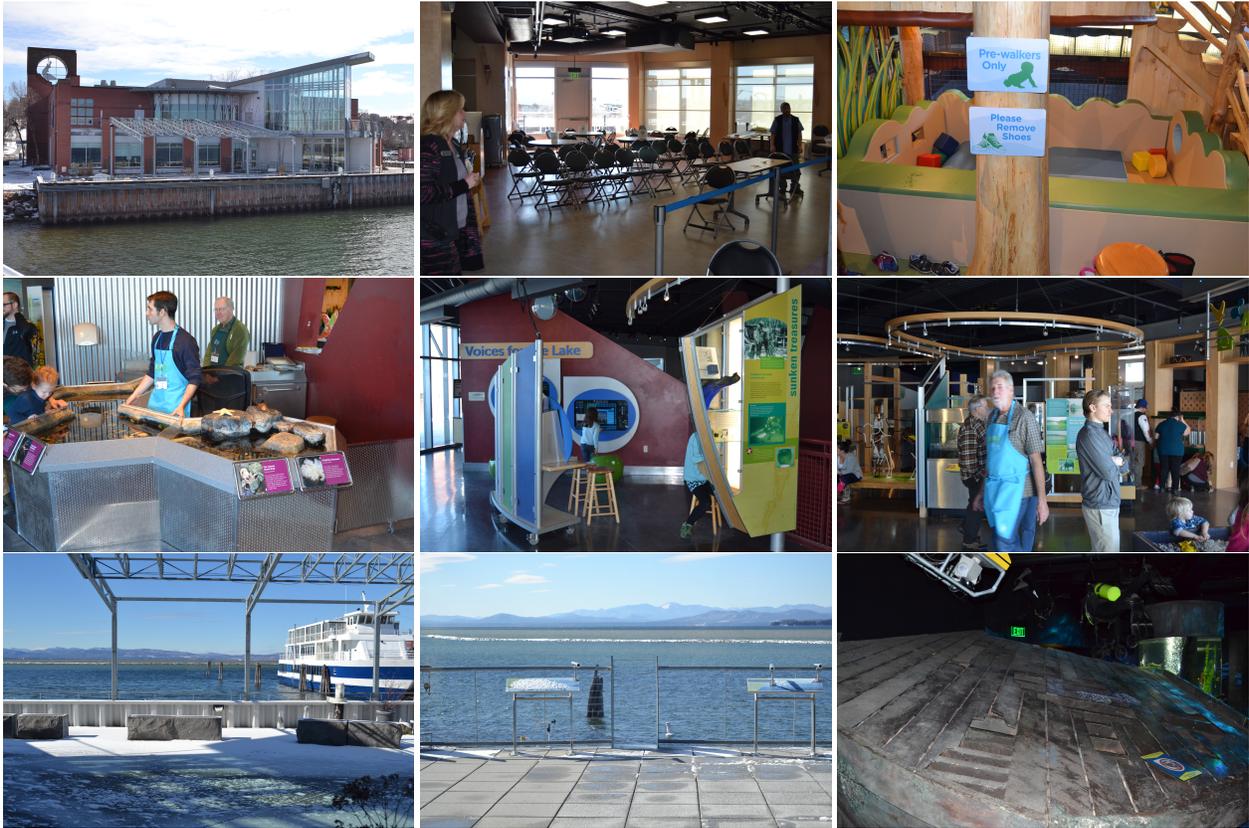
23 The hotel breakfast restaurant (Q) can be used for receptions of up to 150 people. They would
24 clear out the tables and chairs and replace with standups.



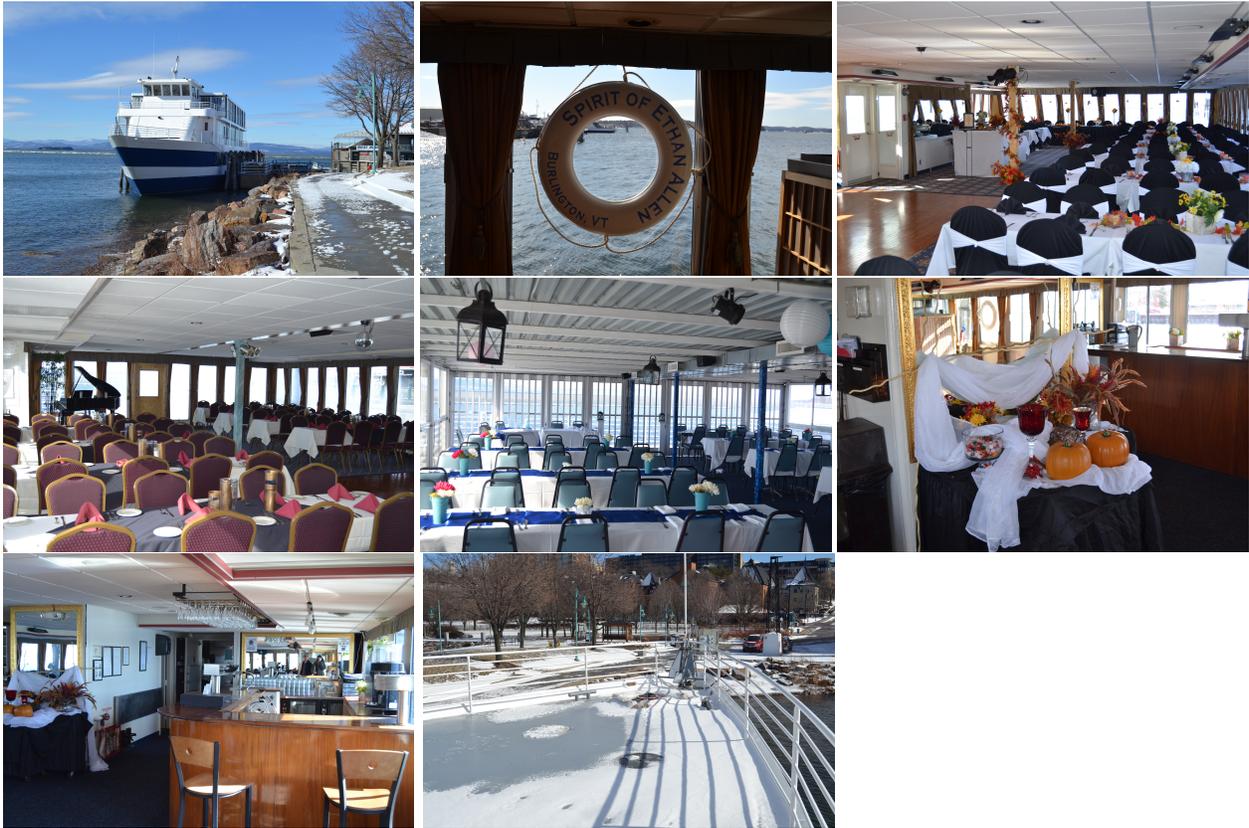
25 One possibility for showing a movie is the amphitheater on the ground floor of the Sheraton.
26 It seats 60–75 and has better acoustics than the pool.



27 Burlington offers several options for exercise. There is a pool and an exercise room at the
28 Sheraton. The pool is probably unsuitable for a movie night because it is well-lit by lights outside
29 the glass wall. The exercise room has treadmills, recumbent bikes, and ellipticals. It also has the
30 free weights and exercise balls shown here. (Someone was exercising on the bikes and I didn't want
31 to take their picture.) Outside the hotel is a running/hiking trail. Along the lake is a bicycle
32 trail. A pedestrian mall very similar to the Boulder Pearl Street mall offers dining and shopping
33 opportunities. Many trails are available for climbing to the east of town, especially in the Green
34 Mountains. The lower right picture is Mount Mansfield as seen from the airport, the highest
35 mountain in Vermont (it peaks at 4,393 feet above sea level.)



36 A few pictures of the *ECHO* facility. Pictures are: The view from the *Ethan Allen III* west
 37 of the building. Next is the Lakeside room, which is available for the reception. It is probably
 38 not suitable as it is too small and just another room rather than something special. Third is a
 39 possibility as a place for speakers to sit if they go on too long. Second row are some candid shots
 40 around the facility. Third row shows the outside decks with a view of the lake that may be suitable
 41 for part of the reception if the weather is good. Final shot shows a reproduction of a shipwreck
 42 that can be visited if you want to use scuba equipment.



43 A few pictures of the *Spirit of Ethan Allen III*. The ship was built in 1997 in Salisbury, Maryland.
 44 It uses two Detroit Diesel engines to cruise at an average speed of seven knots. The Spirit III offers
 45 3 heated and air conditioned decks. First the ship at the dock, then an example of the modern
 46 flotation devices. The Admiral deck seats 150 and has no stairs for access. The Horizon Deck seats
 47 140 and the Sky Deck seats 110. Next is an example of the seasonal decorations, but we can bring
 48 our own. The rep recommended the Admiral deck. It is a 2-hour cruise leaving at about 6. Boat
 49 was very stable even in the strong winds during the visit. He also noted that the cruise would be
 50 in a waning moon. Next row is the ugly bar shot I wasn't supposed to show and the bow for a
 51 Titanic photo op.



52 One of the interesting features in Burlington is the Earth Circle. It is a mini-Stonehenge with
53 a garden sundial in the middle. It lies along a bike trail that runs next to the lake.



54 Another interesting feature is the File Cabinet statue. Ten file cabinets welded to each other
55 and carefully painted. It is on the road to the Earth Circle. The blowup shows a dated political
56 bumper sticker.



57 The most photographed building in Burlington is this view of the Unitarian Universalist Society
58 building at the north end of the Church St. pedestrian mall.

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